

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
COME-00 /110 W

-----058215 142013Z /12

O R 141925Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7893
INFO USDOE WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4700

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, PARM, BR
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SMITH'S VISIT TO BRAZIL -- HIGHLIGHTS OF
TECHNICAL SESSION

REF: BRASILIA 4652

BEGIN SUMMARY. IN TECHNICAL WORKING SESSION AFTERNOON OF
JUNE 12 CHAIRED BY MINISTER PROENCA ROSA WITH CARVALHO AND
BATISTA, AMONG OTHERS, FOR BRAZILIAN SIDE AND NOSENZO FOR
US SIDE, DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON FUEL SUPPLY FOR IEA RESEARCH
REACTOR AT SAO PAULO. ADDITIONALLY, WE DISCUSSED, AS
REPORTED REFTEL, FORM OF POSSIBLE FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS
CONCERNING US EXPORT LICENSING AND THE NEW ADJUSTABLE
FIXED COMMITMENT CONTRACT FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES.
END SUMMARY.

2. CARVALHO STATED THAT IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS THEY EXPECTED
TO RECEIVE BACK MONEY WHICH HAD BEEN ADVANCED TO US NUCLEAR
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CORP FOR FABRICATION OF HEU FUEL ELEMENTS FOR IEA
SAO PAULO RESEARCH REACTOR. HOWEVER, NEED FOR NEW FUEL
WAS NOW CRITICAL AND REACTOR IS CURRENTLY BEING OPERATED
AT PARTIAL POWER TO EXTEND FUEL LIFE. SINCE THERE IS
CURRENTLY NO COMMERCIAL FUEL FABRICATOR IN THE US,
THEY HAVE CONTACTED NUKEM TO FABRICATE ELEMENTS.
THEY ALSO EXPECT TO CONTACT DOE FOR THE PURCHASE OF

APPROXIMATELY SEVEN KILOGRAMS OF HEU AND APPLY FOR EXPORT LICENSE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. CARVALHO ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAD EARLIER, AT US URGING, MODIFIED THE REACTOR TO OPERATE ON HEU RATHER THAN LEU. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF CURRENT US CONCERN ABOUT USE OF HEU, THEY HAVE ASKED GENERAL ATOMIC TO LOOK INTO PROBLEMS OF PROVIDING LESS THAN 20 PERCENT ENRICHED FUEL FOR REACTOR AND THE STUDY IS NOW UNDERWAY. CARVALHO ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT DISPOSITION OF SPENT HEU FUEL FROM THE REACTOR. WHEN TOLD THAT US WAS PREPARED TO REPROCESS IT AND CREDIT THEM FOR VALUE OF RECOVERED MATERIAL, HE REQUESTED A COPY OF THE STANDARD REPROCESSING CONTRACT. US SIDE AGREED TO PROVIDE THIS THROUGH THE EMBASSY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY ABOUT PROSPECTS OF OBTAINING THE EXPORT LICENSE FOR THE HEU ON A TIMELY BASIS, NOSENZO STATED THAT IN VIEW OF THEIR NEED FOR MATERIAL TO CONTINUE REACTOR OPERATION AND EFFORT THEY HAVE INITIATED TO STUDY CONVERSION TO LEU, HE THOUGHT THERE SHOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN APPROVING EXPORT LICENSE IN CONTEXT OF FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS CONCERNING EXPORT CRITERIA (DISCUSSED SEPTEL). US SIDE ASSURED BRAZILIANS THAT IN VIEW OF URGENCY OF NEED, WE WOULD EXPEDITE CONSIDERATION OF LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE FUEL.

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Message Attributes

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